

to major Michelin facilities. By forming a true partnership between each facility and its adopted school, Michelin provides support to meet the specific needs of each school. Several of these include low-income schools receiving Federal title I funds. The program formalizes an opportunity for Michelin's nearly 8,000 South Carolina employees to make a personal contribution to the improvement of public education through hands-on involvement. Michelin employees serve as mentors, tutors and volunteers.

Dick currently serves as chairman of the South Carolina State Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He also serves on the Clemson University President's Advisory Board and the University of South Carolina National Advisory Council. Nationally, he serves on the board of the Rubber Manufacturers Association and Board of Directors of the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

He is active in the Greenville, SC community, serving as chairman-elect of the United Way of Greenville County Board of Trustees. Previously, Dick served as chair of the United Way of Greenville County fundraising campaign. He has served on the boards of the Greenville Urban League, the chamber of commerce, the University Center, and the Greenville Symphony.

Dick has been a true leader in the State's business community. Michelin has turned in strong financial results, which reflects their strong commitment to their shareholders. Beyond that, is the company's commitment to its employees and the fact that Michelin is a true partner with the communities where their employees live and operate manufacturing facilities. Michelin is a superb example of how a good corporate citizen behaves. We are proud of the fact that Michelin calls South Carolina "home."

Dick, congratulations to you on your 31 years with Michelin. Thank you for your past contributions to South Carolina, and I look forward to continuing our work together to make South Carolina a great place to live and work.●

REMEMBERING HANNAH SOLOMON

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I come before you today with a heavy heart, as another of Alaska's treasured elders has passed. Yesterday would have marked the 103rd birthday of Hannah Solomon, a revered Athabascan elder and Gwich'in matriarch. Hannah passed away peacefully at her home in Fairbanks, September 16, 2011.

Grandma Hannah, as she was lovingly referred to, was surrounded by family and loved ones as she passed from this world. She spoke her last words softly, saying to family in Gwich'in, her traditional language, that it was time.

Hannah was known for her devotion to God. She was a very familiar face at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in

Fairbanks, and it is said that she was the last person alive to remember the sound of Episcopal Archdeacon Hudson Stuck's voice. In the days following her passing, a red rose sat atop a crocheted pink and blue pillow in the empty pew seat where Hannah sat in devotion for so many years.

She was also well known for her beautiful and intricate beadwork; many of her pieces can be seen in museum collections around the world. Hannah was not only an artist but a culture bearer. She was born in the Interior of Alaska near the Porcupine River and raised 14 children in a traditional subsistence lifestyle. With no running water or electricity, the family enjoyed all the wealth their traditional homelands offered and never considered themselves to be poor.

Hannah may be best remembered for her social activism. With the wellbeing of her Gwich'in people always in mind, she and her husband Paul Solomon, Sr., helped to form many Alaska Native organizations, including the Fairbanks Native Association and Denakkanaaga. Fluent in her Native language, Hannah also worked as one of the first early social workers in Alaska, helping to create services for those in need.

Her passing will leave a void in our hearts that is difficult to fill. With the passing of each Alaska Native elder we lose a connection to the past and our unique history. Hannah took her responsibility as a culture bearer very seriously, ensuring that future generations knew the stories and traditions of the Gwich'in culture. She was a role model, matriarch, and a leader of exceptional courage and strength, inspiring people to appreciate and love one another.

I would like to offer Hannah's Solomon's family and countless friends my heartfelt condolences. She served the Native people and our beloved State of Alaska brilliantly over the course of her entire life. It is my hope that her extraordinary life will continue to serve as an inspiration to all of us.●

REMEMBERING ERNEST HOUSE, SR.

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I honor of my friend, Ernest House, Sr. I am deeply saddened by his death and I would like to take a few minutes to speak in his honor.

Mr. House was a member of the Weeminuche Band of the Ute Mountain Ute tribe. He was born and raised in Mancos Canyon, CO, in what is now the Ute Mountain Tribal Park in the Four Corners region of our State. Mr. House is the father of Michelle House, Jaque House Lopez, and Ernest House, Jr. He is the grandson of Chief Jack House, the Ute Mountain Ute's last hereditary chair. Ernest House, Sr., held a prominent role in the tribe's leadership over the course of the last three decades, serving several times as chairman and also as a tribal council member. In ad-

dition to his service with the tribe, he was also a veteran of the Colorado Army National Guard of the Special Forces Airborne Group, and he worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Park Service through the U.S. Department of the Interior.

I have admired Mr. House's leadership for many years. He was renowned across Indian Country for his gentle but effective leadership. At the heart of all of his efforts was the goal of improving the lives of his people, which he accomplished on a daily basis. His tireless advocacy for tribal businesses and enterprises led to the completion of several building projects, including the creation of the National Indian Health Service's Tribal Epidemiology Center in New Mexico. His eloquent testimony before Congress on the Dolores and Animas La Plata water projects led to the creation of two water compacts that are critical to the tribe's development. During the latter part of his career, Mr. House focused much of his energy on tribal safety, helping to increase the tribal police force from two officers to more than a dozen.

Mr. House had a wide circle of friends within his tribal community, but he was well respected throughout Colorado and Native American communities across our country. I can feel the sorrow of his friends and family as we collectively grieve for the loss of a truly visionary leader, a kind human being, and a wonderful friend. His legacy of working across tribal, ethnic, and party lines is something we should all take to heart as we try to rise to the challenges before us.

We are all shocked by the sudden loss of someone so important to our collective community. My uncle, Stewart Udall, served as Secretary of the Interior under President Kennedy, and he was also a champion for the rights of Native peoples. He once said that we are not measured by the things we accomplish but by how we treat people. In both regards, Mr. House was an outstanding person, and while he will be dearly missed, his legacy of dedication to his people will live on. We will think of him as we continue to strive to improve the quality of life for native people everywhere.●

STATUE UNVEILING

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today we remember John Otto and the contributions he made to one of our State's natural treasures the Colorado National Monument.

One of western Colorado's most influential historical figures, a trailblazer and ever an eccentric, he was unwavering in his commitment to opening up public lands for all people and generations to enjoy. Otto, a solitary man, took up residence in the commonly known Monument Canyon in 1906. There he began building the first trails in the area, working with tenacious skill throughout the rocky spires and